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USDA/FSIS Hearing Clerk  
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Room 102  
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Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

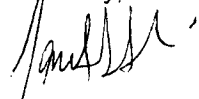
15 September, 1999

Dear Sir /Madam:

**Regarding Docket No. 98-045N.** Food safety hazards first and foremost need to be addressed at the source, the mandatory safeguards at the animal production stage. These include more humane and hygienic conditions for farm animals. Short of this, any food safety plan is doomed to fail. Regulatory authority at the production stage must be expanded, with adequate funding actively sought.

I implore you to address the treatment and conditions by which farm animals suffer. Overcrowding, painful and stressful procedures and conditions, excessive use of antibiotics and other drugs and inhumane and unhygienic transport and slaughter are all issues that a civilized society must address.

Sincerely,



Janet St. Aubin